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It seems, too, that the "L. R. A." series might advantageously have been referred to, as well as the American Decisions, Reports, and State Reports, which the author so judiciously cites.

And the Index might have been improved by a little amplification and better arrangement.

But, after all, we believe that even the most captious critic will discover little about the work that materially lessens its real value.

The author and publishers have well earned the gratitude of every student of real property law.

JAMES H. BREWSTER

THE LAW OF SURETYSHIP. Covering personal Suretyship, Commercial Guaranties, Suretyship as Related to Negotiable Instruments, Bonds to Secure Private Obligations, Official and Judicial Bonds Surety Companies. By Arthur Adelbert Stearns, of the Cleveland Bar. Cincinnati: The W. H. Anderson Co. 1903. One volume. Sheep. Pp. xvii, 747.

This book is designed for the use of practitioners. The best and only reliable test of such a book is the practical test, by which is meant the test of everyday use in the lawyer's office. The practitioner does not read a text-book in course; he consults it as occasion demands. The prime requisites of such a book are exhaustive and thorough treatment of the subject, clear statement of principles, a reference to the authorities from which the principles are extracted, and a full index. These requirements are fully met in the book which is the subject of this review. One thing will particularly attract the practitioner: there are 80 pages of index to 550 pages of text. The proportion is unusually large and this feature of the book is exceptionally valuable. This book will lessen and lighten the labor of the practitioner; will afford him ready access to the leading principles of the subject, and will give him references to cases from which those principles are drawn. A text-book which does not furnish such aid to a practitioner is of little value to him. Nor will he be content to find only a digest or abstract of cases; he has a right to expect substantial aid from one who has made a special study of the subject, as everyone must who prepares a text-book, good or bad, upon a given subject.

The writer has undertaken to form an opinion of the work which is the subject of this review, by putting the book to the test that the practitioner would put it to day after day, and to that end he has investigated, as far as he has been able, such questions as he was able to anticipate, with the endeavor to determine how readily and fully the book affords information. The result has been highly satisfactory and this fact leads him to the opinion that the practitioner will find in "The Law of Suretyship" a valuable addition to his working library. Nearly five thousand cases are cited, which the author claims illustrate all the distinctive features of the contract of suretyship. The author does not pretend to treat those features of suretyship made exceptional by statutory provisions or special conditions.

The profession, it is believed, is anxiously waiting for a good work on the law of suretyship. If Mr. Stearns has not fully met the needs of the time in this regard, he has added to the law of suretyship that which will be of substantial value to practitioners. For these and other reasons "The Law of Suretyship" is commended to the profession.

ROBT. E. BUNKER